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McCone Should Be Armed With New CIA Policy

President Kennedy acted with a great deal of wisdom in selecting a Republican, John A. McCone, to head the somewhat battered Central Intelligence Agency.

This is not to say that the opposing political party should necessarily be saddled with the responsibility for straightening out an agency that apparently needs some revamping.

Rather it is an indication that the President is following a bi-partisan, or non-partisan, attitude toward an operation wholly within the non-partisan area of national security.

Cynics to the contrary, we cannot help but believe the President is sincere in his expression of gratitude toward the departing CIA chief, Allen



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Dulles. For eight years Mr. Dulles bore a weight of responsibility that may never be fully revealed. And while his agency's failures became rather conspicuous in recent months, its work is such that its triumphs rarely, if ever, come to light.

Critics of the CIA charge that its agents are cast in an impossible dual role. Not only do they gather and investigate intelligence data, but they also interpret the information they uncover.

It is to be hoped that with the arrival of a new director, the function of the CIA will be more practically defined. Mr. McCone brings to the job, a wealth of experience in government, having been director of the Atomic Energy Commission and undersecretary of the Air Force. If changes are in order, he should know how to make them.